

Appl. No. 10/260/108  
Amendment dated December 1, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of September 1, 2005

**Abstract**

Please replace the Abstract (p. 26 of the application) with the following new Abstract:

An input buffer circuit and associated method operable in a normal mode and a hot-plug mode. In one example, the input buffer has an input and a buffer output, and the input buffer may include a pull-up path coupled between a first circuit supply and the buffer output; a pull-down path coupled between the buffer output and a ground reference voltage; a first transistor coupled between the input and the pull-up path to activate the pull-up path; a second transistor coupled between the input and the pull-down path to activate the pull-down path; and a third transistor for protecting the pull-up path from over-voltage. The input buffer circuit may be configured to prevent an over-voltage condition on each of the plurality of transistors and the input buffer circuit may be configured to allow a hot-plug operation.